

ALECSEI KURGVEL

According to information in ~~SSO file~~ ^{SSO file}, ALECSEI KURGVEL is one of many nationalist Estonian officers who believed that through wartime collaboration with the Germans they could best work toward Estonian independence and combat Estonia's arch-enemy, the Soviet Union. In July, 1940, when Soviet troops began occupying Estonia, he fled to Germany, with German assistance, and from June, 1941, until late in 1943 worked in Helsinki for the Abwehr. He trained Russians and Estonians as agents, made codes and ciphers and collected information. During this period he was several times invited to join the Wehrmacht, he states, and to be naturalized, but he always refused.

In 1944 KURGVEL returned to Estonia and became the LO between the Estonian Homeguard and the OKW and also the LO between the Estonian SS Legion and the Wehrmacht. Later he became associated with a German Naval Intelligence Officer, Kory. Capt. Peter Ernst Georg NEUMANN, who was working out of Riga, Latvia. KURGVEL acted as W/T Specialist for NEUMANN and trained agents to be dropped in Estonia and Latvia. Several groups appear to have been ~~sent in~~ sent in, some by boat and some by plane. As one of the projects, in April, 1945, 15 men were chosen for a special mission. These men had already been provided by KURGVEL, without the knowledge of NEUMANN, with double codes and ciphers and told that he, KURGVEL, might join the British to "carry on the fight against the Russians". *These men were sent in, but nothing was heard from them.*

KURGVEL surrendered in May, 1945, to the British, who interrogated him in very great detail on his Abwehr activities and then interned him. It appears that he was soon released, was rejoined by his family and has been residing ever since in Lingen/EMS,

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Two items are to be added: 1) In spite of the fact that KURGVEL's wartime activities were known to the British and that even now he is within British territory, ~~at no time did they attempt to~~ *there is no evidence that they* enlist his services for intelligence work; 2) No Estonian sources available to this organization have ever included KURGVEL in lists of prominent pro-Allied Estonian Intelligence personalities residing abroad.

Korv. Capt. NEUMANN is known to our station at Karlsruhe. Late in 1948 and in March, 1949, he offered his services, and those of KURGVEL, for agent operations in the Baltic, but both Karlsruhe and FBW felt that NEUMANN is insecure and probably known to the Soviet authorities *because of his war time activities. It is believed that Soviet authorities have been making a point of* ~~they~~ *him.* had no derogatory information on KURGVEL himself and felt that of the two KURGVEL would carry the brunt of the work.